

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management  
2 framework, comprising:  
3 a) receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the  
4 data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;  
5 b) making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers utilizing a  
6 network based interface; and  
7 c) auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets utilizing the network-  
8 based interface.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2 provided access to the network-based interface.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2 capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of  
2 the outlets closing. *obvious design*
- 1 6. A system for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management  
2 framework, comprising:  
3 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a  
4 network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;  
5 b) logic for making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers  
6 utilizing a network based interface; and

7 c) logic for auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets utilizing the  
8 network-based interface.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2 provided access to the network-based interface.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2 capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.

1 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 10. The system of claim 6, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of  
2 the outlets closing.

1 11. A computer program product for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain  
2 management framework, comprising:

3 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain  
4 utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;

5 b) computer code for making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and  
6 suppliers utilizing a network based interface; and

7 c) computer code for auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets  
8 utilizing the network-based interface.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the outlets, the distributors,  
2 and the suppliers are provided access to the network-based interface.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the outlets, the distributors,  
2 and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based  
3 interface.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the network includes the  
2 Internet.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the auctioning is initiated in  
2 response to one of the outlets closing.

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